



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

February 9, 2005

News Release

IOWA CITY SEX OFFENDER DEPORTED TO LIBERIA

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers here have deported a criminal alien to Liberia who was convicted of an Iowa City sex crime.

Richard Adama Roberts, 36, of Liberia, arrived in the Liberian capital city of Monrovia this morning under ICE escort.

According to documents filed in Johnson County District Court, Roberts approached three women in an Iowa City bar and offered to buy them a drink March 13, 2003. After the bar closed, Roberts accompanied the women to the building where they lived. Later, when he was alone with one of the women in a hallway, he pushed her to the floor and raped her, according to a sworn affidavit written by the victim.



Roberts was initially charged in Johnson County District Court April 28, 2003 with third-degree sexual abuse and subsequently released on pretrial supervision. In July 2003, however, the supervised release was revoked when Roberts was arrested in Coralville for possessing marijuana, interfering with official acts, fifth-degree theft, public intoxication and criminal trespassing, during which he was accused of touching a woman without permission.

Roberts pleaded guilty Aug. 1, 2003 in Johnson County District Court to Assault with Intent to Commit Sexual Abuse, an aggravated misdemeanor, for the March 13 crime. He was given a two-year suspended sentence, one year of supervised probation, and was ordered to register as a sex offender.

Employing the unique authorities of immigration law, ICE special agents took custody of Roberts in October 2003, and a federal immigration judge ordered him removed from the United States Nov. 23, 2004.

“The streets of Iowa City will be safer now that this man is out of the country,” said ICE Field Office Director Scott Baniecke. “It’s a high priority for ICE to remove criminal aliens like Roberts from our communities. Criminal aliens lose their right to remain in the United States.” Baniecke oversees ICE Detention and Removal Operations for a five-state area that includes Iowa.

Roberts first arrived in the United States on a visitor’s visa in 1981, and later became a permanent resident of the U.S., commonly known as a “green card” holder. His conviction for the sex crime resulted in him losing his legal status.

During his years in the United States, Roberts also accumulated convictions for felony and misdemeanor thefts in 1990, 1997, and 1998, was convicted for fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle in 1997, and in 2001 was convicted of intentional property damage. His police record also includes numerous arrests for such crimes as aggravated robbery, drug offenses, probation violations, drunk driving and making false claims to U.S. citizenship.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal agents removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes: Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as: drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file Roberts, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.